

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

# N.E.W.S

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### **HORNE: ARIZONA TO RECEIVE LARGEST COMPETITIVE EDUCATION GRANT EVER. NEARLY \$6 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS WILL HELP SCHOOLS COLLECT ACADEMIC AND OTHER DATA**

*Money will help teachers tailor their lessons to individual student needs rather than solely as part of a class*

PHOENIX (Wednesday, June 27, 2007) – State schools superintendent Tom Horne today announced the Arizona Department of Education has successfully obtained the largest education competitive grant ever awarded to the state of Arizona. The nearly \$6 million is the largest amount available nationally under this grant and it represents almost 25 percent of the total funds available to all 50 states. It will be distributed over a period of the next three years. The money will be used to strengthen the statewide system to collect information on individual student academic progress and other important data. Other data will include annual achievement results, attendance rates, and graduation data along with demographic information. This will help schools make continuous data-driven student achievement improvement decisions at the local level.

“This is the most significant competitive grant the Arizona Department of Education has ever received,” Horne said. “We have worked hard in Arizona so that education will be driven by data, and these funds will be used to fortify the state’s Information Technology infrastructure. Educators need the best tools available to them so they can understand the academic needs of individual students. This will ensure that teachers in every part of the state have the information they need to understand where their individual students are doing well academically, and where they need help. The importance of having fresh data cannot be overstated.”

The Arizona legislature previously appropriated \$2.5 million for the Arizona Education Data Warehouse, combining data previously stored separately. This enables data to be combined in reports that are more meaningful to educators. This grant quadruples the resources available so that Arizona will be a national leader in bringing business principles to education and making sure that important education decisions are data driven.

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“Unlike many other states, Arizona is developing its own internal capacity,” Horne stated. “Many other states are reliant on vendors, and this can put financial stress on those states when the first contracts expire and only one vendor is capable of servicing the state. With our own capacity, Arizona is independent of the vendors. This is consistent with what I have done in other areas, such as schools improvement, where we developed our own capacity with Arizona teachers and principals, while other states relied on consultants.”

He added, “This kind of award is made only when an application stands out compared to the applications of other states. I am proud of the Arizona Department of Education Information Technology team that worked very hard to obtain this grant. This award confirms my belief that the department has some of the brightest minds available working on cutting-edge methods to improve technology to serve Arizona educators.”

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